

Application No. 09/511,265
Amdt dated July 8, 2003
Reply to Office action of April 9, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listings of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) In a data switch including a plurality of interface modules, a method of forwarding a block of data comprising:

receiving a first packet in a first protocol;
translating the first packet into a generic format to create a generic packet;

passing the generic packet to an application;
processing the generic packet by the application transparently of the first protocol;

receiving from the application the generic packet;
translating the generic packet into a second protocol to create a second packet; and

sending the [~~translated~~] second packet to an output port.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising placing the generic packet into a receiving queue corresponding to a quality of service level of the generic packet.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving at a forwarding queue the generic packet from the application, the forwarding queue corresponding to a quality of service level of the generic packet.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending comprises sending the [~~translated~~] second packet to a backplane, the second packet having a port address within a range reserved for a destination port.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the destination port is selected from a group consisting of known internal unicast ports, known internal multicast ports, known external multicast ports, and dynamic multicast ports.

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and

6. (Currently Amended) A switching system comprising:
an input port receiving a first packet in a first protocol;
an input driver coupled to the input port for translating the first packet into a generic format to create a generic packet;
means for passing the generic packet to an application;
means for invoking the application for processing the generic packet by the application transparently of the first protocol;
means for receiving from the application the generic packet;
an output driver for translating the generic packet into a second protocol to create a second packet; and
an output port coupled to the output driver for transmitting ~~[out the translated]~~ the second packet.

7. (Original) The switching system of claim 6, wherein the input and output drivers register with a generic forwarding interface, the generic forwarding interface being located between the drivers and the application.

8. (Original) The switching system of claim 6 further comprising a receiving queue for receiving the generic packet, the receiving queue corresponding to a quality of service level of the generic packet.

9. (Original) The switching system of claim 6 further comprising a forwarding queue for receiving the generic packet from the application, the forwarding queue corresponding to a quality of service level of the generic packet.

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10-11. (Cancelled)

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12. (New) A switching system comprising:
a plurality of drivers;
a plurality of applications; and

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an interface coupled to the drivers and the applications, the interface configured to receive a first packet formatted in a first format from a first driver, translate the first packet to a second format to generate a second packet, and forward the second packet to one of the plurality of applications, the one of the plurality of applications being configured to process the second packet transparently of the first protocol.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the application is a packet forwarding application.
